

FOR LIBERATING, LIBERATED LIVES

Minority leaders and executives from churches and councils in 15 countries, meeting in Kyoto, May 6-10, took a hard look at the plight of Korean residents in Japan along with other minority groups and came up with an analysis of causes and necessary actions, both in Japan and internationally.

The Korean Christian Church in Japan sponsored the Consultation on Minority Problems and Mission Strategy in cooperation with the Japan North American Commission on Cooperative Mission. Delegates included, in addition to residents of Japan, Koreans from South Korea and the United States, representatives of the American Indians, Canadian Indians, Australian Aborigines and the Ainu people of Japan, U.S. Asian Americans, Latin Americans and Blacks, and persons from five Southeast Asia countries.

Cited as causes of the prevailing discrimination in Japan were:

- historical events of which Koreans were the victims:
 - Japan's annexation of Korea in 1910
 - forced immigration and compulsory labor in the late 1930s
 - disregard for Koreans' rights in the San Francisco Treaty
 - the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1965 that opened the door for Japanese economic expansion into Korea
- present employment practices that deprive Koreans of full economic opportunities and exploit them as a source of cheap labor
- social prejudice that demands uniformity and rejects ethnic plurality
- discrimination that denies Korean residents full political rights

A Report to the Churches recommends actions for churches in Japan and around the world, including a mission strategy of interdependence and mutual involvement in the common concerns of oppressed peoples. The churches in Japan are called on to initiate and support specific actions:

- ethnic education in homes, public schools, churches, theological seminaries, institutions of higher learning
- preparation of history textbooks co-written by minority people and Japanese
- establishment of Korean schools in Japan and insistence upon ethnic education in the public schools, a practice the Ministry of Education discourages
- support for specific legal cases involving the rights of Koreans in education, employment, civil rights
- action to counter the use of power brought to bear on minorities and majorities by multinational corporations and governments

Dr. In Ha Lee, moderator of the Korean Christian Church in Japan, is scheduled to meet with Kyodan officers in the near future to discuss how the Kyodan can help implement the recommendations.

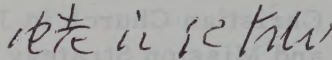
Hiroshima

Dear Friends,

Now, two and a half years after its opening, Seireien Home for the Elderly in Hiroshima continues the services for which it was established, caring for some fifty residents, with a constant list of persons waiting for the day they can enter.

The fact that two-thirds of the residents require special attention for all their personal needs puts heavy demands on the staff. However, again this year many people are encouraging our work with their gifts, time and talents. An average of 10 volunteers come to help each month, in addition to those who bring programs of entertainment.

Seireien has the reputation of being the best home in Hiroshima. We hope to continue that reputation and to constantly improve our care of the residents.



Norio Ebie, Director
Seireien Home for the Elderly

Seireien Statistics, as of April 1974:

Number of residents: 51 women 31 men 20

Age breakdown:	<u>under 65</u>	<u>65-74 years</u>	<u>75-89</u>	<u>90 or over</u>
	4	14	27	6

Turnover: 19 new persons entered during 1973 (4/73 - 3/74) due to primarily to having no one in the home to care for them or being released from the hospital but having no place to go

Physical condition: 60 - 70% of residents cannot walk alone or look after physical needs; in 16 cases the cause is attributable to A-bomb effects, in 15 cases, to other causes

Visitors: one-third of residents have visitors at least once a month; one-third, every two or three months; one-third, several times a year

Seireien Program

Calendar of Activities:

Spring

Hinamatsuri (Doll Festival)
residents all made dolls
Drives into the country
Mothers' Day
Games

Fall

Lecture on family relations
by member of Family Court
Picnic with family and neighbors
Display of crafts by residents
Picking and drying persimmons

Summer

Tanabata (Summer Festival)
Drives into the country
Anniversary of Dropping of A-bomb
on Hiroshima
Summer Festival to "cool off"

Winter

Making Christmas cards
Christmas worship
Children's puppet play
Making omochi (pounded rice)
Writing first characters of New Year

Regular activities:

monthly birthday parties, programs of song, dance, rakugo (humorous story-telling) by Hiroshima groups, including the Hiroshima University rakugo club, amateur show, games, classes, tanka (poetry).

Ecumenical Hymnal Planned

Japan's first ecumenical hymnal will be published in 1975. An editorial committee composed of Catholics and Protestants, including representatives of Anglican, Lutheran, Baptist and Kyodan churches and of the National Christian Council, is now at work assembling hymns for inclusion in Konnichi no Shinko no Uta (Songs of contemporary faith).

The Hymnal will be published by the Kyodan Board of Publication to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the publication of the first Japanese hymnal, which is being celebrated this year.

The phrase sambika kurisuchan (hymnal Christian) reflects the popularity of Christian hymns among the Japanese and the fact that many people have entered the fellowship of the church first through its music. Hymns are also known and sung by many people with no relationship to the church, who have heard them over the radio, sung them in Christian schools, camps or youth activities.

More than 2,500,000 copies of the Sambika (Hymnal) published in 1955 have been sold. A second collection of Christian music for choir or informal occasions was published in 1967.

However, up to now, a comparatively small proportion of the compositions have been written by Japanese composers and lyricists, some of those in the Meiji (1868-1912) and Taisho (1912-1926) periods. The committee hopes to include in the new hymnal many more Japanese hymns and is now in the process of assembling poems and hymn tunes for consideration.

Father Peter Sakayabashi of the Japan Catholic Church, a member of the editorial committee, brings to the committee the recent experience of the Roman Catholic Church in producing contemporary music to express its new contemporary liturgies. "You can unite your hearts faster with music," says Sakayabashi.

Some progress has already been made toward ecumenical sharing and mutual appreciation through ecumenical music festivals in recent years.

The Editorial Committee welcomes contributions from overseas in the form of manuscripts or songbooks. Correspondence should be addressed to: Hymnal Committee, The United Church of Christ in Japan, Board of Publication. 41, 551 Totsukamachi 1-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Labor Problems, Finances Threaten Christian Social Work

A critical shortage of Christian workers and difficulties in meeting the needs of the people Christian institutions seek to serve wrinkled the brows of administrators at the Christian Social Work League meeting in Hamamatsu May 15-17.

The problem is how to provide the round-the-clock care needed in institutions within the labor standards set by the government. The situation is particularly acute in homes caring for the physically and mentally handicapped, where employees complain of the heavy work and physical strain.

Administrators also said that it is becoming impossible to operate in the black with inflation pushing costs up.

One hospital director noted that wages take 66% of the total income, medicine another 33%, leaving 1% for food and all other expenses.

"The League is not the body that can help us overcome the lack of Christian workers," said Hiroshi Hayashi of the Osaka Gyomeikan Hospital. "We must turn to the churches to produce persons with a commitment to the goals of Christian work, and to Christian schools to train them."

During the summer a group of 15 to 20 social workers will visit the United States, to observe institutional and community work in a program coordinated by the Japan-North American Commission on Cooperative Mission.

what has been -- I N T H E K Y O D A N -- what is to be

I. Coming Events

Kyodan district moderators to meet 6/10-11

II. Recent Events

Communication

Shimpo becomes bi-weekly beginning May 4; Rev. Junichiro Kambayashi replaces Suzuki as editor (Shimpo 5/4)

District

District Assembly news: Kyushu, Shikoku, Higashi-Chugoku, Nishi-Chugoku, Hyogo, Hokkai, Kyoto, Kanto (Shimpo 5/18)

Hyogo district assembly meets after 3-year lapse, elects Toshio Serino moderator, but does not elect General Assembly delegates (Shimpo 5/18)

Kyodan

Com. on Ministerial Training and Qualifications issues statement questioning points in Kyodan cabinet's view on ministerial examinations. It appeals for immediate approval of those who passed examination last autumn (Shimpo 5/4, Shimbun 5/4)

Kyodan Fukuin Shugi Domei (Kyodan evangelical association) poses "public" questions to Mod. Toda on cabinet's view on ministerial examination, appealing to officers to withdraw their statement (Shimpo 5/4)

Ministry

see Kyodan

Overseas

see Social

Social

Christian Social Work League holds annual meeting at Seirei Welfare Community, Hamamatsu (KNL 5/74)

Consultation on "Minority Issues in Japan and Mission Strategy" is held in Kyoto 5/6-10, bringing 80 persons from 15 countries and various ethnic groups, churches and councils to consider Koreans' plight in Japan (Shimbun 5/25, KNL 5/74)

(Yasukuni)

Japan Baptist Convention and other churches issued statement against Yasukuni bill (Shimbun 5/18)

169 Doshisha Univ. professors issue personal statement against Yasukuni bill 4/26 (Shimbun 5/18)

National Council of Churches in Korea issues statement against Yasukuni bill (Shimbun 5/18)

Throughout Japan, Christians react to Yasukuni Bill developments with demonstrations and hunger strikes (Shimpo 5/4, 5/18)